



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 18, 2006
City Hall Kiva Conference Room
3939 Drinkwater Blvd.
5:00 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Donn Loper, Vice Chair Shelley Anderson, Commissioners Dean Cerimeli, John Faramelli, Ron King, Ronald Petersen and Robert Frost.

Staff Present: Judy Weiss, William Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Leslie Clark, Steve Lehman.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Loper called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Loper asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting January 4, 2006

Commissioner Frost said page 3, Paragraph 8, last sentence, should have said Commissioner Frost congratulated the group. With that change, Commissioner Frost moved for approval, Commissioner King seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPORTS LIGHTING AT THE SOUTH AND WEST SOCCER FIELDS AT CHAPARRAL PARK

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, said that there are two issues. One is the lighting of two soccer fields that are currently not lighted, and the other is partnership funding. Ms. Weiss gave a history and background of the project.

Ms. Weiss introduced Senior Recreation Coordinator Steve Lehmann, who presented a partnership funding proposal by the Arcadia Scottsdale United Soccer Club (ASUSC) for the installation of sports lighting at the south and east soccer fields at Chaparral Park.

Questions from the Commissioners:

Commissioner Frost asked how the response is on the cutoff line as opposed to spill-off light? Mr. Lehman noted with another project recent accomplished with this particular lighting system, we were able to achieve under a foot-candle of light at the property line.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked if the fields will yield an increasing program base for city programs, or will they be mainly used for youth sports groups? Mr. Lehman replied that the primary use would be the same groups that use it now.

Commissioner Anderson asked Ms. Weiss, could we also be notified of the meetings at Chaparral Park? Ms. Weiss: Certainly.

Commissioner Faramelli asked what kind of fixtures do the existing lights at Chaparral Park have? Mr. Lehman replied it's a mixture right now. The ballfields are a Musco fixture, which have been retrofitted with level 8, 1500-watt metal halide fixture. On the soccer fields, half have the new fixtures, half don't.

Commissioner Faramelli stated this means that this is the first time we've used this high tech light in this park. Mr. Lehman said we do have plans to use this fixture on the new fields to the north, and in the retrofit of the existing fields, and certainly to put them on all new facilities.

Commissioner King said because the Arcadia Scottsdale United Soccer Club is investing \$200,000 into these lights, are they going to want any priority for using these fields? Mr. Lehman said we would still follow our field allocation policy. That policy does state that history has a big function in use. By investing in a field, it does not give you exclusive use, but it is taken into consideration for scheduled use.

Commissioner Cerimeli said the agenda actually says south and west soccer field. It should be south and east soccer field, right? Mr. Lehman: It is the east field that will be lit. The west field is already lit. Commissioner Cerimeli said as for maintenance, are there plans to water those fields throughout the year now? Mr. Murphy said we will continue the same maintenance program.

Chairman Loper said can you point out existing lighting on the east of the park closest to residences and how tall they are? Mr. Lehman said the closest poles are 70 feet tall. Chairman Loper said, and the proposed lighting is the same? Mr. Lehman said the existing soccer field has poles – 70 feet- which will get retrofitted. There are 3 poles on the east side of 60 feet. Chairman Loper said are there plans to retrofit existing lighting with the new technology shield? Mr. Lehman said, yes, that would be part of the renovation of the 4-plex which is planned after we finish the 2 ball fields to the north. Chairman Loper asked is that part of the \$400,000? Mr. Lehman replied, no, that would be approximately \$650,000. Chairman Loper asked is Arcadia the only soccer club that has contributed or have other clubs contributed to Arcadia, which in turn has made the contribution. Mr. Lehman said this comes from the club, and he has no knowledge of other clubs assisting.

Scott Graham of the Scottsdale Arcadia Soccer Club said that this is a win-win project for the club. He gave a short history of the club and its involvement with building projects and the city. He said these lighted fields will give them an advantage, allowing them more practice space.

Question from Commissioner Cerimeli: Is this a year-long program? Scott said that the club uses the field from September through May.

Question from Commissioner Petersen: Are all three of these fields full-sized? Scott said that the west field is a full-sized football field, the east field is 40 feet shorter, and the south field is 80 feet shorter.

Question from Commissioner Anderson: At the Mescal Park meeting, you said it would save the city money by not lighting the horse arena. Why is lighting more pertinent for this sport? Mr. Graham said he wasn't against the lighting; his concern was about the mixed use of kids and horses in the same area. Commissioner Anderson said the statement was that we could save money. How does lighting increase the use of the park and what time of year is it important for your sport? Scott said we have 40 Black Hawk teams of approximately 10-15 kids on each that practice primarily at Chaparral Park. The density is 3-6 teams on the west field. With the added fields, we would be able to spread out those teams and allow them more realistic practice time. This would also keep the fields in better shape.

Chairperson Loper question to Ms. Weiss: what are the issues with the funding? Ms. Weiss said we have a general fund partnership account of \$70,000 per year that the Commission has been approving throughout the year. With the magnitude of this project, we need an alternative method of funding. The next step will be to go to City Council and ask them to fund the city's portion.

Commissioner Cerimeli stated that the 2 fields to the north will be lighted, and if they are looking for more places to play, these would be available.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PLANS ON THE YAVAPAI BALLFIELD COMPLEX

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director presented the proposed plans on the Yavapai Ball Field Complex project.

Questions from commissioners:

Commissioner Anderson said there is not a wall next to the condo complex. The lights are very close to the window areas. Is there any talk about raising the wall? Ms. Weiss said the wall belongs to the condos. There will be a lot of grading in the project, since it is in the Indian Bend Wash. The poles will be configured using the latest technology, and the lights will be facing away from the condos. Commissioner Anderson asked how late the games go. Ms. Weiss said the ordinance says lights must be out at 11 p.m. Parks close at 10:30 p.m. and leagues try to finish by 10:20 p.m.

Chairperson Loper had a question about the location of a light pole, which Ms. Weiss pointed out on the map.

Commissioner Frost said we have \$700,000, leverage with \$700,000 from Heritage, totaling \$1.4 million. Total cost is \$2.7. Where does the other million come from? Ms. Weiss replied that there is \$700,000 budgeted and another \$141,000 next year in bond money, coming to \$1.3 million. With the addition of \$700,000 in design and \$700,000 in grant, the total is \$2.7 million.

Commissioner Petersen asked what part is city land and what part is school land. Ms. Weiss said most of the project will be on school property. Commissioner Petersen asked which entity would be paying utility bills. Ms. Weiss said this project is governed by intergovernmental agreement. In this case, the city will pay utility bills.

Commissioner Faramelli asked when we will know if we have the Heritage funds. Ms. Weiss said the grant is due February 28th. There is an extensive evaluation period. We find out in August. In October a contract is drawn. Commissioner Faramelli asked if we don't get the Heritage money does that mean we don't have a project. Ms. Weiss replied we would have a reduced scope project.

Commissioner Frost said the project overlaps into the flood plain. Is the project going to be lowered so we have a level field, and have the Corps of Engineers been consulted? Ms. Weiss said that grading will happen, and since we are not yet in design, the Army Corps of Engineers has not been consulted.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked who the primary user would be. Ms. Weiss said we have a high need for adult softball fields, and since these are large enough, that will be much of the use. At certain times of year, they can be converted for use by Little League, and thus be multi-use fields.

Commissioner King said since the orientation of the existing field is being flipped around, is that going to have an effect on the flow of light? Ms. Weiss said the type; amount and scope of light on this project will enlarge greatly the area of usage. Using the new fixtures will minimize the glare as much as possible.

Commissioner King asked when the condos were being planned, were they aware of the overall plan for the field, or just the existing field. Ms. Weiss said the existing field. Commissioner King asked if the cell tower will be in the way, and if it will be moved. Ms. Weiss was not sure, it will be a question for the design consultant.

Chairperson Loper said part of the budget has been laid out for a design consultant. What is his function? Ms. Weiss said he would take us to construction, all the technical work. Commissioner Loper asked if he was a contractor. Ms. Weiss replied an architect.

John Anderson, who lives at 7526 East Beatrice spoke on behalf of himself and his neighbors, who were worried about traffic, noise, and lights. Mr. Anderson thinks that the project will not adversely affect the neighborhood.

Chairperson Loper asked if we had accounted for any additional parking spaces. Ms. Weiss said that we do have what's left of the original parking lot, and we might also be able to use the school parking lot in the evenings. Ms. Weiss also clarified the curfew. Although the ordinance does allow an 11 p.m. shutoff, we rarely use it. We like

to be done by 10 p.m. Chairperson Loper asked if there had been any traffic studies done on the 3 new fields versus the single existing field. Ms. Weiss said we are in the preliminary stage, so not yet.

Dave Peterson, Chief of Facility Maintenance, Scottsdale Public Schools said that the Scottsdale School system believes this to be a worthwhile project both for the neighborhood and the schools. They are interested in partnering to get these fields completed, and will support this project as a school district.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC A.R.S. § 38-431.02

Chairperson Loper called for any items from the floor or from the commission. There were none.

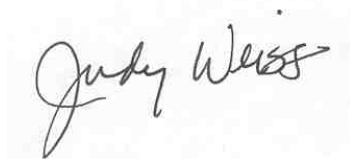
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cerimeli moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Anderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

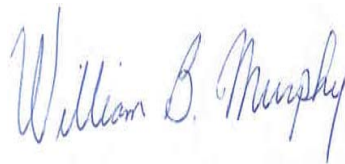
With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairperson Loper adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Bates, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.



Judy Weiss, Director
Parks and Recreation



William B. Murphy, Director
Parks and Grounds Management